pending as on 1-6-1994.

(c) Action for disposing of these applications has been initiated.

Processing of Raw and Cashew Nuts

7709. SHRI V. GOPALSAWY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cashew nuts factories in each States, State-wise figures;

(b) how much raw cashew nuts was processed in these factories in each State during the last three years in each year;

(c) how many workers are employed presently in each State in these factories;

(d) whether it is a fact that cashew producers are not getting remunerative prices for their products if so, details thereof;

(e) what is the number of farmers co-operative societies in each State, State-wise figures;

(f) whether Central Government have taken steps to encourage farmers' co-operative societies to ensure remunerative prices for them; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (g) As cashew processing is being done mostly in the small scale and unorganised sector, information regarding State-wise number of units, quantum of processing, workers employed, number of cooperatives, etc. are not maintained centrally. However, as per the available information there are some 690 factories processing raw-cashew nuts in the country which are mostly located in the cashew producing States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Pondicherry and Tripura. State-wise production of raw-cashew nuts during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the statement (*See* below) in addition to processing of cashewnuts produced within the country, India also imports raw cashewnuts and process them in the factories. Import of raw cashewnuts in the years 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93 were of the order of 82,639 MT, 1,06,322 MT and 1,33,293 MT respectively. Thus, the total amount of cashew processed in the country which is inclusive of processing of domestic raw cashew during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93 was estimated to be of the order of 3,77,299 MT, 4,11,632 MT and 4,82,683 MT respectively.

Statement

Production of Raw Cashew Nuts

(Unit: Metric Tonnes)

State	Years		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Kerala	1,42,100	1,43,200	1,51,600
Karnataka	25,770	26,750	31,260
Andhra Pradesh	37,770	40,360	44,880
Orissa	29,100	31,840	39,060
Maharashtra	29,510	31,960	25,590
Goa	14,100	14,490	33,810
Tamil Nadu	12,470	12,710	19,190
West Bengal	3,440	3,660	3,660
Pondicherry	280	290	290
Tripura	50	50	50
	2,994590	3,05,310	3,49,390

Setting up of National Marine Fisheries Development Board

7710. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Marine Fisheries Development Board for the overall development of fisheries sector; and

(b) if so, by when the Board is likely to come into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING

INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) it is proposed to set up a National Marine Fisheries Development Board for the overall development of the fisheries sector.

(b) The Board is proposed to be set up in the 8th Five Year Plan period.

Passive Smoking

7711. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the present medical opinion passive smoking is as harmful and injurious as actual smoking;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the latest thinking there is no proof that the wives or husbands of smokers have a higher incidence of lung cancer; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Passive smokers are at a higher risk as compared to non-smokers in developing tobacco related diseases.

(b) and (c) Manary studies have indicated that the spouses of smokers are at a higher risk of devleoping Lung cancer as compared to non-smokers.

Alleged Resale of used Syringes

7712. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have detected many cases of disposable syringes after their one time use, finding their way in the market for rasale if so, the names of places where such cases were detected;

(b) whether any enquiry was made and action taken in this matter; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government received representation to include disposable syringes under Food and Drugs Act; and

(d) if so, what aciton is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Such reports have come to the notice of Govt. through periodic press reports. All State Drug Controllers have been advised to ensure that hospitels, nursing homes and practitioners take adequate measures to ensure that the disposable syringes and needles are effectively destroyed after use. Further all licencees have to print a label stating "to be destroyed after single use" to prevent the re-use or recycling of the items.

Government have already notified (1) Disposable Hypepdermic syringes (2) Disposable Hypodermic Needles and (3) Disposable Perfusion sets, as drugs, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 with effect from 17-3-1989.

Vacant Posts in C.G.H.S. Store Depots

7713. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of posts of stores Officers, UDGs, LDCs, packers and Labourers (regular) are lying vacant in Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani Store Depots under C.G.H.S. in Delhi.

(b) if so, their number in each category and since when these are lying vacant; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill up these posts to run the stores properly?

THE MINSITER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B.